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Laws on safety and hygiene and the contract of hiring are found to be of generally equal application, but insurance and relief legislation shows a variety of treatment under the various systems adopted, as well as conflicts of laws that work double hardship in requiring the maintenance of two insurances in some cases, while in others no protection is provided for workmen of certain nationalities. It is here that the need of internationalism is felt to be urgent, and the steps that have been taken to meet the needs are fully presented by the author in the third part of the volume, in which the history of labor treaties is traced from the inception of the idea to the present organized propaganda of international associations and labor offices. Existing treaties are grouped and discussed, with an account of the difficulties overcome in securing them. An appendix of sixty pages presents the text of twenty agreements and conventions on various subjects, adding largely to the value of the book as a work of reference.

While the book necessarily deals chiefly with facts, the author is arguing steadily for the international spirit, and is frank in his criticisms of the opposite attitude. It can hardly escape notice that he speaks from a standpoint of interest, being a Belgian, and one of his illustrations is of the large seasonal migration of Belgian laborers. There appears to be an adequate regard for national independence in the matter of enforcement of treaties, but the appeal is for the development of a juridical conscience that will establish a society of nations in which the interests of humanity will stand first, and those of states, governments, and territories be secondary. The plea that advanced legislation is a burden to industry is discredited by Professor Mahaim to a greater degree than would be sanctioned by the many who still offer it in opposition to such action, but his arguments and illustrations are of weight; and from any point of view the work is a valuable compilation of material and a contribution of merit in a field of growing interest and achievement.

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La Classe Ouvrière et les Niveaux de Vie. Recherches sur la Hiérarchie des Besoins dans les Sociétés Industrielles Contemporaines. By MAURICE HALBWACHS. (Paris: Librairie Félix Alcan. 1913. Pp. xvii, 495. 7.50 fr.)

This is a study of the class consciousness of the manual laborer with particular consideration of its manifestation in his standard

of life. The author does not agree with Professor Schmoller that class divisions are determined solely by physical and mental differences resulting from occupation, nor with Karl Bücher, who attributes them to differences in vocational opportunity and social rank created by wealth. Both factors, he holds, exert an influence. In part I, the problem is considered from the point of view of production; and in parts II and III, from the view of consumption.

The questions, Do the agricultural workers possess a consciousness of class? and If so, do they identify themselves with the group of industrial workers? are answered in the affirmative. Some of the arguments are not completely convincing, as, for example, the contention that the introduction of scientific methods of agriculture will result in large-scale farming, or that the farmer exploited by the middleman necessarily identifies himself with the industrial workers exploited in quite a different fashion. The chapter on the effect of machinery and division of labor in developing the class consciousness of the industrial workers, covers ground traversed so often that the task of the author consists in the coördination of old thought rather than the formulation of new.

In part II, on the standard of life of the working class, a careful analysis is made of the data collected in two recent German studies of family budgets, one by the Imperial German Office of Statistics, and the other by the Metal Workers' Union. The studies show that Engel's laws must be modified in some respects. In the first place, methods of expenditure do not vary precisely in accordance with changes in revenue and size of family. On the contrary, there are many fluctuations, which are attributed by the writer to the retention of a former standard of life by a family changing its economic conditions. The German studies, like some of the American ones, show that the proportion expended for rent does not, as Engel declared, remain stationary, but declines with an increase of revenue. In the case of New York city, this decline has been attributed by some to the excessively high rents, which abnormally curtail the amount devoted to other purposes by those with low incomes, and hence cause additions to revenue to be expended for these poorly satisfied needs. In his analysis of the principles of needs in part III, the author attributes this decline to the small social importance attached to lodging by the workers, who devote much of any

additional revenue to expenditures tending to elevate the social position and satisfy the social needs of themselves and their families.

The book is written in somewhat diffuse style, and the many ramifications of the subject are discussed in much detail. But the concise summaries at the end of each section enable one easily to tie together the various threads of thought. There is no discussion of the class struggle, no prediction concerning its ultimate outcome, and this self-restraint is particularly welcome in the presentation of a subject which has been too much obscured by socialistic controversy.

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Die Konzentrationsbewegung bei den deutschen Gewerkschaften.

By ALEXANDER WENDE. (Berlin: Carl Heymanns Verlag. 1913. Pp. 84. 2 m.)

This monograph is a helpful analytical study of the trend toward industrial unionism, through the consolidation of national unions in allied or closely connected trades, which has characterized the German labor movement in recent years. The developments which have worked to produce consolidation, the obstacles which have retarded or prevented it, the constitutional and financial problems created by the merging into one union of previously independent craft unions varying widely in numerical strength, strategic position, financial standing, and insurance necessities and systems, and the ways in which these problems have been met by the amalgamated unions are in turn treated in outline. Throughout, the points are illustrated and supported by the citation of difficulties experienced and courses followed by particular unions.

Among the causes of this amalgamation movement, prominent place is given to the increase in and federating of employers' associations. The policies pursued by the latter organizations, themselves the effect of union activity, have in their turn cooperated noticeably with developments more universal in their operation—such as the employment in one industry of the members of several previously distinct crafts and the blurring of the distinction between the skilled and unskilled branches in manufacturing industries—in driving the separate unions to consolidation. The necessity of putting an end to jurisdictional disputes between